Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00473 171425Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-02 SY-05 PC-05 AID-05 IO-14
HA-05 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20
/123 W
----------121590 181350Z /46
R 171400Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3024
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS DURBAN 0473

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF
SUBJ: SUSPECTED TERRORIST ATTACKS

REF: PRETORIA 4768

1. TWO INCIDENTS IN DURBAN IN THE PAST WEEK, AS WELL AS THE TWO RECENT ATTACKS IN JOHANNESBURG (REFTEL) ADD TO THE LIST OF ATTEMPTS ON THE LIVES OF PRESENT OR FORMER POLITICAL ACTIVISTS IN THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS. IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ON EVENING OF AUGUST 10, A WHITE MAN FIRED A PISTOL SHOT AT WHITE FORMER POLITICAL ACTIVIST HAROLD STRACHAN. WHEN STRACHAN'S WIFE ANSWERED A KNOCK ON THE DOOR, CALLER FIRED A PISTOL PAST HER AT HER HUSBAND SITTING IN LIVING ROOM. SHOT MISSED, GUNMAN IMMEDIATELY FLED AND HE HAS NOT BEEN IDENTIFIED ALTHOUGH HIS LICENSE NUMBER WAS NOTED BY AN OFF-DUTY POLICEMAN. STRACHAN, TWICE-BANNED BUT A SELF-PROCLAIMED "POLITICAL DINOSAUR" WHO DROPPED OUT OF POLITICS AND NOW TEACHES ART AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NATAL, STATED HE WAS TOLD SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THAT HIS NAME WAS ON A "HIT-LIST DRAWN UP BY A RIGHT-WING POLITICAL ASSASSIN".
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PAGE 02 DURBAN 00473 171425Z

THE STYLE OF THE ATTACK ON HIM RESEMBLES THAT EMPLOYED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF BANNED UNIVERSITY OF NATAL PROFESSOR RICK TURNER IN JANUARY, DIFFERENCE IN TARGET BEING THAT TURNER REMAINED OUTSPOKENLY COMMITTED DESPITE HIS BANNING WHILE STRACHAN MODERATED HIS POLITICAL VIEWS.

2. A SECOND INCIDENT INVOLVES MRS. SUMBOORNUM MOODLEY,

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

A RECENTLY UNBANNED INDIAN POLITICAL ACTIVIST WHO HAD BEEN A RESEARCH WORKER FOR THE BCP. (HER HUSBAND, STRINI MOODLEY, IS A PRISONER ON ROBBEN ISLAND.) MRS. MOODLEY STATES SHE RECEIVED A CALL TWO WEEKS AGO, SHORTLY AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE TERMINATION OF HER BANNING ORDER, WARNING HER "REMEMBER RICK TURNER. YOU NEXT (SIC)". THE MIDNIGHT CALL WAS ACCOMPANIED BY A KNOCKING ON HER DOOR, BUT SHE REFUSED TO ANSWER IT, RECALLING THAT WAS HOW TURNER WAS KILLED. ON AUGUST 15, AN AUTO OWNED AND DRIVEN BY MRS. MOODLEY SUDDENLY LOST A FRONT TIRE AND SWERVED OFF THE ROAD. MRS. MOODLEY SUSPECTS THIS WAS AN ATTEMPT TO KILL HER.

3. THESE EVENTS, AS WELL AS THE TURNER MURDER (DURBAN 12), THE ATTACK ON THE HOME OF BANNED INDIAN SOCIOLOGIST FATIMA MEER LAST DECEMBER (77 DURBAN 802), THE SEPARATE ASSASSINATION OF TWO BLACK SECURITY POLICEMEN (DURBAN 614 AND A-50) AND THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF A POLICE INFORMER (DURBAN 12) THE SAME NIGHT AS TURNER'S MURDER ALL REMAIN UNDER POLICE INVESTIGATION. EXCEPT FOR THE OWNER OF THE ALLEGED ESCAPE VEHICLE IN THE STRACHAN CASE NO SUSPECTS HAVE BEEN DETAINED IN ANY OF THE CASES.
FARBER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: DURBAN
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780855/aaaabtqb.tel
Line Count: 84
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Litigation History:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1713638
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUSPECTED TERRORIST ATTACKS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF
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Type: TE
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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